

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, SP, ECIN
SUBJ: EC-SPAIN ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS -- VISIT BY
CALVO SOTELO

1. SUMMARY: JULY 12 CALVO SOTELO, SPAIN'S MINISTER IN CHARGE OF EC-SPAIN RELATIONS, MET IN BRUSSELS WITH EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENTS NATALI (ENLARGEMENT) AND VREDELING (SOCIAL AFFAIRS), AND PAID A COURTESY CALL ON COMMISSIONER BRUNNER (ENERGY). HIS TALKS COVERED THE STATUS OF THE EC-SPANISH DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO THE COMMISSION'S OPINION ON SPAIN'S MEMBERSHIP, AND OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES. CALVO AND THE COMMISSION EXPRESSED OPTIMISM OVER THE PROGRESS OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN BOTH AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION OFFICIAL, CALVO SOTELO'S TRIP TO BRUSSELS WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO MARK THE CON-
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CLUSION OF THE PREPARATORY WORK LEADING UP TO THE COMMISSION'S DRAFTING OF ITS FORMAL OPINION ON SPAIN'S APPLICATION AND THE ENSUING FORMAL MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE BURDEN OF TRANSLATING THE MANY DOCUMENTS SPAIN HAS PRESENTED TO THE EC ON THE SPANISH ECONOMY, THE FINAL MEETING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND SPANISH DELEGATIONS HAS BEEN POSTPONED

UNTIL SEPTEMBER. COMMISSION SOURCE SAID THAT THE SPANIARDS HAVE BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE IN ANSWERING ALL THE COMMISSION'S QUESTIONNAIRES CONCERNING THE SPANISH ECONOMY SECTOR BY SECTOR AND THAT THE DISCUSSIONS ARE ALMOST COMPLETED. COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAID THAT CALVO SOTELO'S VISIT WAS THEREFORE ESSENTIALLY AIMED AT MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH COMMUNITY OFFICIALS AND AT GIVING PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING MOMENTUM IN SPAIN'S DRIVE FOR EC MEMBERSHIP.

3. TALKS WITH NATALI COVERED BOTH THE COMMISSION'S PREPARATION OF ITS OPINION ON THE SPANISH APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SEVERAL OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES (UP-DATING THE 1970 TRADE AGREEMENT, TEXTILES, STEEL AND FISHING). NATALI REPORTEDLY TOLD CALVO SOTELO THAT THE COMMISSION IS DETERMINED TO PRODUCE ITS OPINION ON SPANISH ACCESSION BY THE END OF THE YEAR. NATALI AND CALVO SOTELO REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT THE QUESTIONS RELATING TO FISHING, TEXTILES AND STEEL CAN BE RESOLVED THROUGH THE ALREADY ESTABLISHED COOPERATION PROCEDURES AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO REAL DIFFICULTIES IN THESE AREAS. (A SPANISH MISSION SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY ON THESE ISSUES.) BOTH PARTIES FURTHER AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE DESIRABILITY OF MAKING CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 1970 AGREEMENT.

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4. COMMISSION OFFICIAL TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE 1970 AGREEMENT ARE PROCEEDING IN PARALLEL WITH THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATION PREPARATIONS, BUT HE NOTED THAT NEITHER THE COMMISSION NOR SPAIN HAS MOVED FROM ITS ORIGINAL POSITION REGARDING RECIPROCAL TARIFF DISMANTLEMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS. A SPANISH MISSION OFFICIAL CLAIMED THAT, ALTHOUGH CONTACTS ARE CONTINUING, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT A STANDSTILL SINCE SPAIN WILL NOT AGREE TO IMPROVED TREATMENT OF EC MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS IN SPANISH MARKET UNLESS IT IS ASSURED OF MORE FAVORABLE EC TREATMENT FOR SPANISH AGRICULTURE. HE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT MINOR ADJUSTMENTS WERE BEING MADE TO THE 1970 AGREEMENT THROUGH THE EC'S AUTONOMOUS MEASURES PROCEDURE AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT PROBLEMS OVER THE AGREEMENT WILL ULTIMATELY BE ABSORBED IN THE BROADER ISSUE OF ACCESSION, PRESENTLY THE MAIN FOCUS OF ATTENTION IN THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.

5. DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT VREDELING COVERED THE SOCIAL ASPECTS (SOCIAL SECURITY, EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS) OF SPAIN'S EVENTUAL MEMBERSHIP AND THE TREATMENT

OF SPANISH MIGRANT WORKERS IN EC COUNTRIES IN THE MEANTIME.
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